ROCK THE VOTE

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# Young Voter Turnout 2008 - Primaries and Caucuses

The 2008 elections are shaping up to be the year of the young voter. After big increases in young voter turnout in 2004 and 2006, many skeptics wondered if the momentum would continue into 2008.

The answer is a resounding yes. Where comparable exit poll data was available **the number of 18-29 year old voters increased in every state's primary or caucus, even doubling and tripling in many.** Overall, the number of 18-29 year olds voting in primaries and caucuses in 2008 is 103% more than in the previous set of primary elections.[i]

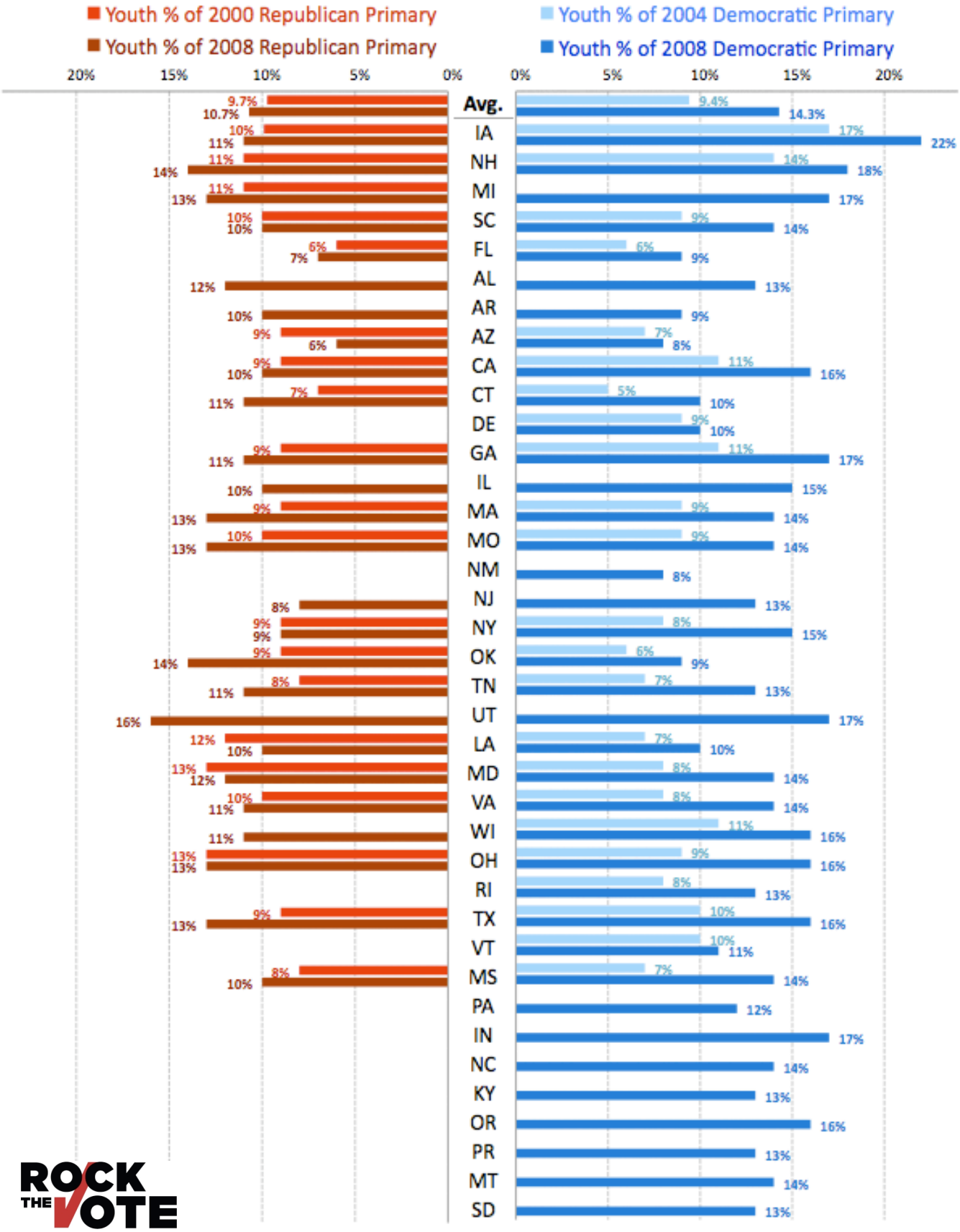
In addition, while turnout has been high across all age groups, **young voters have increased their turnout by much more than any other age cohort.** Turnout has been up, but so has the percent of the electorate young people make up (known as "share"). Not only are young adults voting in larger numbers, they are also increasing their presence at the polls more than are older voters. The results below demonstrate the incredible participation of young voters in 2008:

## Turnout of 18-29 Year Olds in the Presidential Primaries

| State | Youth Vote Increase | % Increase | Dem 2004 | Dem 2008 | Dem Increase | GOP 2000 | GOP 2008 | GOP Increase |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Combined*** | **2,412,329** | **103%** | **1,110,806** | **4,963,587** | **2,191,237** | **1,236,293** | **1,769,213** | **221,092** |
| Iowa | 38,788 | 133% | 20,756 | 55,001 | 34,245 | 8,514 | 13,057 | 4,543 |
| New Hampshire | 28,703 | 50% | 30,770 | 51,931 | 21,160 | 26,203 | 33,745 | 7,543 |
| Michigan | -24,277 | -18% | - | 100,952 | - | 137,269 | 112,992 | -24,277 |
| South Carolina | 35,295 | 42% | 26,446 | 74,501 | 48,055 | 57,310 | 44,550 | -12,760 |
| Florida | 209,217 | 247% | 42,771 | 157,493 | 114,722 | 41,970 | 136,465 | 94,495 |
| Alabama | - | - | - | 69,159 | - | - | 67,415 | - |
| Arkansas | - | - | - | 27,659 | - | - | 22,458 | - |
| Arizona | 21,460 | 47% | 16,726 | 36,530 | 19,804 | 29,040 | 30,696 | 1,656 |
| California | 335,421 | 58% | 319,028 | 671,422 | 352,394 | 256,313 | 239,341 | -16,972 |
| Connecticut | 31,785 | 167% | 6,501 | 34,719 | 28,218 | 12,529 | 16,097 | 3,568 |
| Delaware | 6,641 | 222% | 2,996 | 9,637 | 6,641 | - | - | - |
| Georgia | 159,498 | 126% | 68,949 | 180,345 | 111,395 | 57,887 | 105,990 | 48,103 |
| Illinois | - | - | - | 300,570 | - | - | 88,501 | - |
| Massachusetts | 139,683 | 139% | 55,367 | 175,635 | 120,268 | 45,264 | 64,679 | 19,415 |
| Missouri | 106,649 | 125% | 37,651 | 115,275 | 77,625 | 47,536 | 76,560 | 29,024 |
| New Mexico | - | - | - | 11,872 | - | - | - | - |
| New Jersey | - | - | - | 144,218 | - | - | 44,548 | - |
| New York | 194,860 | 160% | 57,251 | 262,325 | 205,074 | 64,846 | 54,631 | -10,215 |
| Oklahoma | 55,080 | 188% | 18,143 | 37,549 | 19,406 | 11,233 | 46,908 | 35,675 |
| Tennessee | 95,942 | 209% | 25,857 | 81,027 | 55,170 | 20,063 | 60,835 | 40,772 |
| Utah | - | - | - | 20,845 | - | - | 45,401 | - |
| Louisiana | 30,886 | 131% | 11,316 | 38,435 | 27,119 | 12,349 | 16,117 | 3,767 |
| Maryland | 57,138 | 65% | 38,518 | 108,875 | 70,356 | 48,884 | 35,666 | -13,218 |
| Virginia | 93,455 | 95% | 31,698 | 137,939 | 106,241 | 66,409 | 53,623 | -12,787 |
| Wisconsin | 86,686 | 95% | 91,120 | 177,806 | 86,686 | - | 43,503 | - |
| Ohio | 191,809 | 66% | 109,891 | 349,893 | 240,002 | 178,763 | 130,571 | -48,192 |
| Rhode Island | 21,384 | 806% | 2,653 | 24,038 | 21,384 | - | - | - |
| Texas | 431,665 | 229% | 83,923 | 449,173 | 365,250 | 104,796 | 171,211 | 66,415 |
| Vermont | 7,502 | 102% | 7,385 | 14,887 | 7,502 | - | - | - |
| Mississippi | 57,058 | 402% | 5,090 | 57,609 | 52,519 | 9,114 | 13,653 | 4,539 |
| Pennsylvania | - | - | - | 276,800 | - | - | - | - |
| Indiana | - | - | - | 216,749 | - | - | - | - |
| North Carolina | - | - | - | 217,217 | - | - | - | - |
| Kentucky | - | - | - | 89,305 | - | - | - | - |
| Oregon | - | - | - | 98,080 | - | - | - | - |
| Puerto Rico | - | - | - | 49,995 | - | - | - | - |
| Montana | - | - | - | 25,396 | - | - | - | - |
| South Dakota | - | - | - | 12,728 | - | - | - | - |

# Vote Share of 18-29 Year Olds in the Presidential Primaries

*Even as turnout has grown for all age groups, young voters are expanding their vote share within both parties.*




[i] Turnout and share figures in this document are compared to the turnout and share figures for each party's most recent competitive primary cycle based on exit polls. For Democrats, numbers are compared to 2004; for Republicans, they are compared to 2000. Vote shares are from CNN exit polls and CIRCLE; vote totals are from CNN and the United States Elections Project.